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Press Guidance (if asked):

**U.S. Pilots Assisted Colombian Air Force in Santo Domingo Incident?
June 13, 2001**

B(17).

Question: Do you have any comment on reports that U.S. contract pilots of a Sky Master aircraft were used to help Colombian pilots target objectives in the December 1998 incident in Arauca, which resulted in the death of civilians?

Answer (U.S. Embassy Official): We understand that there were U.S. citizens who were contracted to pilot the plane for pipeline security. At no time has the U.S. government provided any military or contract support to petroleum companies in Colombia.

The U.S. government has never provided any pilots, either from the U.S. military or under any type of civilian or military contract, (to the Sky Master or other any other type of aircraft) to the Colombian Air Force for pipeline security.

We would refer questions to the Colombian Air Force.

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